

ST. MARY



PARISH

“...the health of a community is a shared responsibility of many entities, organizations and interests in the community, including health services delivery organizations, public health agencies, other public and private entities and the people of a community.”

– Institute of Medicine. 1996. *Healthy Communities: New Partnerships for the Future of Public Health*. National Academy Press. p. 12



ST. MARY
PARISH

St. Mary Parish

**St. Mary Parish
Tourist Commission**
P.O. Box 2332
Morgan City, LA 70381
504-395-4905
800-256-2931

**Regional Office of
Public Health**
Larry Richard
Regional Administrator
Acadian Regional
Office
Brandywine III, Ste.
100
825 Kaliste Saloom Rd.
Lafayette, LA 70508
337-262-5311
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History¹

St. Mary Parish encompasses part of what was originally Attakapas County. The first settlers arrived at the turn of the 19th century, to find wilderness inhabited by Attakapas Indians. The alluvial soil and numerous natural resources overshadowed the hardships, however, and the settlers remained.

The parish was officially organized in 1811. Berwick, on the west bank of the Atchafalaya River, was laid out as a townsite in 1797 by Thomas Berwick.

The present boundaries of the parish date from 1868. In 1865 the French Acadians had come into the area to farm. Most settled along Bayous Teche and Boeuf. Soon afterward pioneers came from France and Spain, as well as Revolutionary War families from the eastern seaboard of the United State.

This beautiful section of the state has had phenomenal population and industrial growth. It is known today as having the largest cypress mill in the world, the only known lighted seaplane landing strip in the nation, and the largest commercial helicopter base in the world. It is the biggest producer of carbon black, and its largest city, Morgan City, claims to be “the Shrimp Capital of the World.”

Culture and Recreation³

St. Mary Parish has a wealth of attractions, recreational activities including fishing and camping, restaurants and accommodations including campgrounds and one state park to satisfy your “wanderlust.” The parish offers two historic districts with over 450 properties, a war memorial, a memorial strip, a great seawall, a Carillon bell tower, plantation homes, swamp tours including a walking tour, the Chitimacha Indian Museum, a Mardi Gras Museum, an aviation museum, to name but a few activities. Over sixteen fairs and festivals including the Shrimp and Petroleum Festival, the Cypress Sawmill Festival, Festival Sur la Teche, Mardi Gras, Christmas, and the July 4th festivities promise a Cajun bon temps good time!



Parish Seat¹ Franklin¹

Major Cities (over 5,000 population)²

Morgan City

1990 14,531

1997 15,075



Franklin	
1990	9,004
1997 (estimate)	9,292
Patterson	
1990	4,736
1997 (estimate)	5,805

Parish Population²

1990	58,086
1997 (estimate)	57,363

Breakdown of 1996 population (estimates)⁶

White	64%
African American	35%
Other	3%
Male	49%
Female	51%
Population age 0-4	8%
Populations age 65 & over	10%

Geography and Statistics²

Average elevation	5 ft.
Land area in square miles	612.9
Water area in square miles ⁴	506

Climate²

Average temperatures	
Annual	70°
January	58°
July	82°
Annual average rainfall	55.4 in.

Labor Force (1995)¹

Civilian	24,640
Employed	22,360
Unemployed	2,280
Unemployment	9.2%

Agriculture¹

Sugarcane, rice, corn and soybeans; oil and related industries, sugar refining, salt, carbon black, timber, shrimping and fishing.

Educational Attainment (1990)⁷

Less than 5th grade	7.5%
High school graduate or higher	58.1%
Some college or higher	22.9%
Bachelor's degree or higher	8.3%

Major Employers (Products) and Number of Employees²**Private Employers**

McDermott, Inc. (Ship Building/Pipe Fabrication/Steel)	2,400
Cypress Bayou Casino (Gaming)	950
Service Marine Industries, Inc. (Ship Const./Repair)	510

Public Employers

St. Mary Parish School System (Education)	1,416
Lakewood Hospital (Medical)	420
Franklin Foundation Hospital (Medical)	160

Poverty and Income

Persons in poverty (1995) ⁷	23.9%
Children under age 18 in poverty ⁷	34.6%
Per capita income (1996) ⁸	\$17,016



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References

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- ² Louisiana Department of Economic Development. 1999. Louisiana Overview. keyword: overview <http://lled.state.la.us>
- ³ Louisiana Office of Tourism. 1998. keywords: regional information <http://www.crt.state.la.us/crt/tourism.htm>
- ⁴ Police Jury Association of Louisiana. <http://www.lpgov.org/>
- ⁵ State Library of Louisiana. keyword: directories <http://smt.state.lib.la.us/>
- ⁶ U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1998. Population Estimates. 1998. keywords: parish name <http://www.census.gov/datamap/www/22.html>
- ⁷ U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1998. keywords: people, poverty, small area income and poverty estimates <http://www.census.gov>
- ⁸ U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration. 1999. keywords: economics and statistical administration <http://www.doc.gov>

Colleges/Universities²

(within one hour commute)

Baton Rouge

Louisiana State University; Southern University

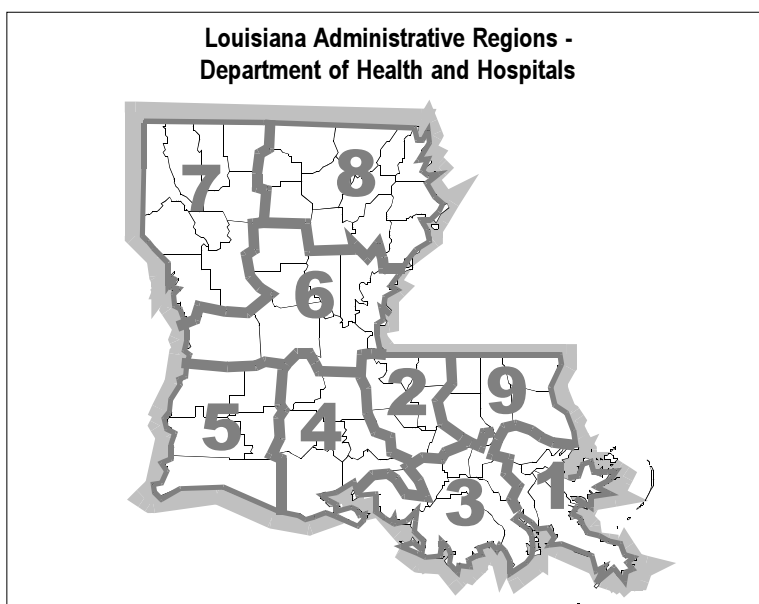
Thibodaux

Nicholls State University

Lafayette

University of Southwestern Louisiana

Public Libraries⁵ 5



Region 1

Jefferson
Orleans
Plaquemines
St. Bernard

Region 2

Ascension
East Baton Rouge
East Feliciana
Iberville
Pointe Coupee
West Baton Rouge
West Feliciana

Region 3

Assumption
Lafourche
St. Charles
St. James
St. John
St. Mary
Terrebonne

Region 4

Acadia
Evangeline
Iberia
Lafayette
St. Landry
St. Martin
Vermilion

Region 5

Allen
Beauregard
Calcasieu
Cameron
Jefferson Davis

Region 6

Avoyelles
Catahoula
Concordia
Grant
LaSalle
Rapides
Vernon
Winn

Region 7

Bienville
Bossier
Caddo
Claiborne
DeSoto
Natchitoches
Red River
Sabine
Webster

Region 8

Caldwell
East Carroll
Franklin
Jackson
Lincoln
Madison
Morehouse
Ouachita
Richland
Tensas
Union
West Carroll

Region 9

Livingston
St. Helena
St. Tammany
Tangipahoa
Washington